Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in East Godavari District

2048. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO : Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have chosen East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh to launch Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), aimed at achieving the goal of universal elementary education;

(b) if so, when this scheme is going to be launched; and

(c) the main features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme is being implemented since October, 2001.

(c) The Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan aims at Universalisation of Elementary Education. It is a community based programme to provide eight years of Elementary Education to all children in the age group 6-14 years by 2010. The main features of the Scheme are :—

(i) To provide School/Alternative School within one Kilometer of school-less habitation, which includes opening of new primary schools and upgradation of existing primary schools to upper primary schools.

(ii) Construction of Buildings for Buildingless schools, toilets, provision of additional classrooms and block Resource Centres as well as Cluster Resource Centres.

(iii) One teacher for every 40 children in elementary school. At least two teachers in a primary school.

(iv) Training to teachers with a focus on quality education.

(v) Annual school grants and teachers grants.

(vi) Support to Early Childhood Care and Education Centres.

(vii) Focus on Education of Girls, SC/ST and children from other disadvantaged groups. Provision of free textbooks to all Girls and SC/ST children.